

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title of the invention, insert the following paragraph:

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Application serial number 10/028,445, filed December 28, 2001, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Page 1, paragraph starting at line 6 ending at line 8

The present invention relates to a cleaning device for cleaning residual toner ~~remained~~ remaining on a developer image carrier and an image forming apparatus equipped with this cleaning device.

Page 1, paragraph starting at line 10 ending at line 22

As an image forming apparatus to form a toner ~~developer~~ image on a photosensitive body according to the ~~electro-photographic~~ an electrophotographic system, in recent years it ~~is~~ has been planned to put a wet type image forming apparatus using toner particles as extremely fine as sub-micron in practical use. Especially, in the case of a full-color image forming apparatus capable of obtaining a full-color toner image by superposing plural color toners has such merits as it is economical because a sufficient image density is obtained from small amounts of toners, texture comparable to printing (for example, offset printing) can be realized and further, energy saving is attained as a developer image can be fixed at relatively low temperatures, and the more practical use of a wet type image forming apparatus is expected.

Page 1, paragraph starting at line 23 ending on page 2 at line 12

However, in the case of this wet type image forming apparatus, toner particles are extremely fine and it is difficult to remove residual toners ~~remained and clean~~ remaining on a photosensitive body or an intermediate transfer body after

completing the transfer and toners tend to remain on the photosensitive body or the intermediate transfer body as toners are not completely removed. As a result, there were ~~so far such defects~~ problems such that toners left on the photosensitive body or the intermediate transfer body were offset on a developing ~~roller/a~~ roller or a sheet of paper that is acting as a transfer paper, and Also, the toners mixed in a developing device and produced developers of mixed colors or contaminated a toner image formed on a sheet paper, and further Further, toners adhered on the photosensitive body or the intermediate transfer body ~~was~~ were hardened to a film shape, and ~~producing~~ produced a filming phenomenon and image void. Therefore, the maintenance to remove toners ~~adhered~~ adhering on the photosensitive body or the intermediate transfer body was necessitated frequently.

Page 2, paragraph starting at line 13 ending at line 19

On the other hand, in the case of an image forming apparatus for forming a developer image on a photosensitive body according to the ~~electro-photographic~~ electrophotographic system, a technology is disclosed in Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-149033 for cleaning a photosensitive body after completing the transfer of image by an image forming apparatus equipped with a cleaning device comprising a rotary brush[[, etc.]] and a web system wiping device.

Page 3, paragraph starting at line 5 ending at line 11

Objects The objects of this invention are to promote cleaning characteristics of a cleaning device without impairing space saving, obtain a high quality image by preventing mixture of color developers by residual toners, contamination of images, drop of image quality in order for surely removing residual toners ~~remained~~ remaining on a photosensitive body and intermediate transfer body and reducing maintenance requirement.

Page 4, paragraph starting at line 7 ending at line 21:

Further, according to ~~the~~ another embodiment of this invention, there is provided an image forming apparatus comprising: a latent image carrier; an image

forming unit to form a developer image on the latent image carrier; an intermediate transfer body to secondarily transfer the developer image that is primarily transferred from the latent image carrier ~~on the transferred to a transfer~~ material; and a cleaning device that is provided opposing to the intermediate transfer body, has a first cleaning member having a scraping function of the surface of the intermediate transfer body and a second cleaning member having a wiping function of the surface of the intermediate transfer body by running between the intermediate transfer body surface and the first cleaning member in the state of being put over the first cleaning member and the wiping by the second cleaning member.

Page 5, paragraph starting at line 9 ending at Page 6 at line 1

Embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail referring to the attached drawings. FIG. 1 shows an image forming portion 10 of a color ~~electro-~~ photographic electrophotographic apparatus in a first embodiment of the present invention. A photosensitive drum 12, which is a developer image carrier, has a photosensitive layer of amorphous silicone ~~system~~ provided on a conductive solid base of aluminum and on which a protective layer composed of amorphous silicone carbide (a-SiC), amorphous carbon (a-C), fluorine containing a-C[], etc.]] is preferably formed. Around the photosensitive drum 12 that is rotating in the arrow direction r at a peripheral velocity 100mm/sec., a charging device 13 comprising well-known Scotron chargers, an exposing device 17 for forming electrostatic latent images by attenuating potentials at exposed portions by applying exposing light 14 which is demodulated according to yellow (Y), magenta (M), cyan (C) and black (BK) image data to the photosensitive drum 12 are arranged along the rotating direction of the drum 12.

Page 6, paragraph starting at line 9 ending at line 19

The liquid developers are toner particles in particle size 0.1-3 μm dispersed in carrier liquid and comprise mainly coloring agent, resin, additive and carrier liquid. Carbon and various color pigments for coloring agents, acrylic resin and styrene resin[], etc.]] which are proper as toner material for resin, and charge control agent

represented by metallic soap, dispersing agent[[, etc.]] for additives are used. Further, highly resistant and low viscous insulating liquid and, for example, such iso-paraffin hydrocarbon as Iso-Paraffin L (the trade mark of Exxon), normal paraffin hydrocarbon such as Norpar (the trade mark of Exxon) are used.

Page 6, paragraph starting at line 20 ending at Page 7 at line 4

At downstream side of the developing devices 18Y –18K around the photosensitive drum 12, there are a squeeze device 22 for making excess liquid developer remaining on the photosensitive drum 12 to a thin layer in order to prevent a white fog of a developer image and a drying device 24 for drying up excess carrier liquid by blowing high speed air upon the photosensitive drum 12. The squeeze device 22 comprises an air sucking device or squeeze rollers that has have a liquid sucking property[[, etc.]] and compresses an a toner image adhered to an electrostatic latent image on the surface of the photosensitive drum 12 against the photosensitive drum 12 more strongly by the electophoresis when a bias voltage is applied.

Page 7, paragraph starting at line 5 ending line at line 12

At the downstream side of the drying device 24 around the photosensitive drum 12, there is an intermediate transfer roller 28 that is a developer image carrier, for secondarily transferring a toner image primarily transfer from the photosensitive drum 12 on a sheet of paper that is a transfer paper conveyed by back-up rollers 26. The intermediate transfer roller 28 rotates in the arrow direction S and has a cleaning roller 28a at the downstream side of the secondary transferring position to the a sheet of sheet paper 27.

Page 7, paragraph starting at line 13 ending at line 24

Further, at the downstream side of the intermediate transfer roller 28 around the photosensitive drum 12, there are a cleaning device 30 that removes residual toner remained remaining on the photosensitive drum 12 after competing the toner image transfer to the intermediate transfer roller 18 28 and a blanking lamp 35 that

eliminates residual charge ~~remained~~ remaining on the surface of the photosensitive drum 12 and are kept separated during the toner image forming process to obtain a full-color image by superposing yellow (Y), magenta (M), cyan (C) and black (BK) toner images on the photosensitive drum 12.

Page 7, paragraph starting at line 25 ending at Page 8 at line 9

The cleaning device 30 comprises a brush roller 31 that is a first cleaning member having a function to scrape the surface of the photosensitive drum 12 and a web sheet 32 that is a second cleaning member having a function to wipe off the surface of the photosensitive drum 12 that is wound ~~round~~ around the brush roller 31, and the cleaning device 30 is brought in contact with the photosensitive drum 12 in the state with the web sheet 32 put over the surface of the brush roller 31. The web sheet 32 travels in the arrow direction t of the winding roll 34 and rolled up at a moving velocity 0.3 mm/sec. from the sending out roll 33. At this time, the brush roller 31 also rotates at the same velocity as the web sheet 32.

Page 8, paragraph starting at line 10 ending at line 16

The brush roller 31 comprises nylon brushed 3-4 mm long, 0.3 mm thick at ~~the a~~ density about 210-30 pieces/mm² and have moderate minuteness and stiffness to show an effect to scrape toners on the surface of the photosensitive drum 12. The web sheet 32 is made of processed woven fabric or non-woven fabric of various fibers such as polyester, acrylic, polyimide, metal and cellulose in the thickness of 500 µm thinner than the planted length of the brush roller 31 and density 0.3-0.4g/cm³.

Page 8, paragraph starting at line 22, ending at Page 9 at line 3

Next, the operations will be described. When the image forming process is started and the photosensitive drum 12 is rotated in the arrow direction r, the photosensitive drum 12 is uniformly charged by the ~~charger~~ charging device 13 and

after the laser beams modulated by the exposing device 17 based on the yellow image data that is a first color image data is selectively applied, and electrostatic latent image corresponding to a yellow image is formed and arrives at the developing position.

Page 9, paragraph starting at line 4 ending at line 14

At developing position, the developing unit base 20 is slid in the arrow direction v and [[a]] developing roller 21Y of the yellow (Y) developing device 18Y containing an yellow (Y) liquid developer is arranged oppositely. A liquid developer is supplied to the electrostatic latent image on the photosensitive drum 12 by the developing roller 21Y and an yellow (Y) toner image is formed on the photosensitive drum 12. Then, excess liquid developer on the photosensitive drum 12 is scraped by the squeezing device 22 and the liquid developer is made to a thin layer and an yellow (Y) toner image adhered to the electrostatic latent image is strongly pressed against the photosensitive drum 12.

Page 9, paragraph starting at line 15 ending at line 20

Thereafter, the yellow (Y) toner image on the photosensitive drum 12 is passed through the drying device 24 and the carrier liquid slightly remained remaining on the surface of the photosensitive drum 12 is dried and removed by the high speed blowing air. Thus, only a developer image formed by yellow (Y) toner particles is left on the surface of the photosensitive drum 12.

Page 9, paragraph starting at line 21 ending at Page 10 at line 3

Further, the yellow (Y) toner image passes the opposing position to the intermediate transfer roller 28. At this time, the intermediate transfer roller 28 is separated from the photosensitive drum 12 and the toner image on the photosensitive drum 12 advances to the cleaning device 30 without being transferred on the intermediate transfer roller 28. Because the cleaning device 30 is also separated from the surface of the photosensitive drum 12, the yellow (Y) toner

image is not cleaned and electrostatic latent image corresponding to Yellow (Y) is erased by an erasing the blanking lamp 35.

Page 10, paragraph starting at line 4 ending at line 14

As described above, after forming a toner image by Yellow (Y) toner particles while the photosensitive drum 12 is rotated by one turn, a second color toner image forming process is executed likewise the Yellow (Y) toner image. That is, while retaining the Yellow (Y) toner image, the photosensitive drum 12 is uniformly charged again by the charger charging device 13 likewise the formation of the first Yellow (Y) toner image, the laser beam exposing light 14 that is modulated based on a magenta (M) image data, that is a second color image data, is applied selectively by the exposing device 17 and arrives at the developing position of an electrostatic latent image corresponding to a magenta image.

Page 10, paragraph starting at line 23 ending on Page 11 at line 6

Then, likewise the yellow (Y) toner image forming, after drying excess carrier liquid by the drying device 24, the magenta (M) electrostatic latent image passes through the intermediate transfer roller 28 and the cleaning device 30 and the magenta (M) electrostatic latent image is erased by the erasing blanking lamp 35 and the operation is shifted to forming the next color toner image forming. By repeating the same operation four times, the photosensitive drum 12 is rotated by 4 times, toner images of yellow (Y), magenta (M), cyan (C) and black (K) toner articles are superposed and a full color toner image is obtained.

Page 11, paragraph starting at line 7 ending at line 15

After completing the toner image forming process, in order to execute the transferring process, press contact of the intermediate transfer roller 28 to the photosensitive drum 12 and bring bringing the cleaning device 30 to contact with the photosensitive drum 30. A full-color toner image formed on the surface of the photosensitive drum 12 under this state reaches the intermediate transfer roller 28 and is first transferred to the intermediate transfer roller 28 by a difference in the

surface energy, heat and pressure between the photosensitive drum 12 and the intermediate transfer roller 28.

Page 11, paragraph starting at line 16 ending on Page 12 at line 2

The full-color toner image primarily transferred to the intermediate transfer roller 28 is secondarily transferred on a sheet of paper 27 that is clamped and conveyed between the intermediate transfer roller 28 and [[a]] the back-up roller 26 synchronous with the full-color developer image on the intermediate transfer roller 28, and a full-color image is thus obtained on the sheet of paper 27. The secondary transfer mechanism of a full-color toner image from the intermediate transfer roller 28 to the sheet of paper 27 is due to difference in heat, pressure and the surface energy between the intermediate transfer roller 28 and the sheet of paper 27. Further, the intermediate transfer roller 28 is cleaned by the cleaning roller 28a after the secondary transfer of the full-color toner image onto the sheet of paper 27 and becomes ready for the next primary transfer.

Page 12, paragraph starting at line 3 ending at line 17

On the other hand, after transferring a full-color toner image to the intermediate transfer roller 28, the photosensitive drum 12 reaches the cleaning device 30. At the cleaning device 30, [[a]] the brush roller 31 and [[a]] the web sheet 32 run in the arrow direction t at a moving velocity 0.3 mm/sec. which is lower than the peripheral velocity 100 mm/sec. of the photosensitive drum 12, and the toner scraping function of the brush roller 31 and the wiping function of the web sheet 32 act on residual toner on the photosensitive drum 12 simultaneously and the residual toner is removed. The web sheet 32 is wound round around the winding roll 34 from the sending out roll 33 and the a new surface is always kept in contact with the photosensitive drum 12, preventing the wiped residual toner from returning to the photosensitive drum 12. Then, the residual electric charge on the photosensitive drum 12 is removed by the erasing blanking lamp 35 and a series of image forming process processes is terminated.

Page 12, paragraph starting at line 18 ending at line 21

When the cleaning state of the residual ~~toner~~ toner on the surface of the photosensitive drum 12 by the cleaning device 30 was observed, toner adhered by incomplete cleaning was not recognized and a good cleaning characteristic was obtained.

Page 12, paragraph starting at line 22 ending on Page 13 at line 10

According to the first embodiment, in order to achieve ~~the~~ space saving, the brush roller 31 and the web sheet 32 are arranged by putting them over each other and the scraping function and the wiping function of the photosensitive drum 12 are made to act simultaneously. As a result, a ~~the~~ high cleaning characteristic is obtained by the cleaning device 30 even when toner particles are fine and residual toner on the photosensitive drum 12 can be surely removed. Accordingly, the high cleaning characteristic can be realized in a saved space and a small sized image forming apparatus can be achieved. Further, it is possible to prevent generation of mixed color caused by mixing of residual toner on the photosensitive drum 12 into the developer, generation of contamination of a toner image by toner, and defective image quality resulting from the toner filming on the photosensitive drum 12, and obtain a high quality of developer image and reduce the maintenance requirement.

Page 13, paragraph starting at line 18 ending at line 26

A cleaning device 36 that can be brought in contact with or separated from the photosensitive drum 12 as shown in FIG. 3 is in contact with the photosensitive drum 12 in the state wherein a web sheet 38 is put over the surface of a brush roller 37 likewise the first embodiment described above. The web sheet 38 is [[a]] woven or non-woven in 300 μm thick, impregnated in Isopar L (the trade mark of Exxon) that is the same as carrier liquid as a cleaning assistance agent and runs from a sending roll 40 and wound round around a winding roll 41.

Page 14, paragraph starting at line 1 ending at line 10

Using the cleaning device 36, a full-color toner image is formed on the sheet of paper 27 by the image forming process similar to the first embodiment. After transferring a full-color toner image [[o]] on the intermediate transfer roller 28, [redial] residual toner remained remaining on the photosensitive drum 12 was is removed by the cleaning device 36 and the residual toner cleaning state on the surface of the photosensitive drum 12 was observed. A more More satisfactory cleaning characteristic was obtained by the cleaning assistant agent in addition to the scraping function of the brush roller 37 and the wiping function of the web sheet 38.

Page 14, paragraph starting at line 11 ending at line 19

According to this second embodiment, likewise the first embodiment described above, since the scraping function and the wiping function act on the photosensitive drum 12 simultaneously and furthermore, the cleaning effect by the cleaning assistant agent, the cleaning device 36 is able to obtain a high cleaning characteristic and surely remove residual toner on the photosensitive drum 12. Accordingly, it is possible to achieve a small size image forming apparatus by a reduced space and a developer image of high quality, and furthermore, the maintenance requirement can [[eb]] be reduced.

Page 15, paragraph starting at line 9 ending at line 17

Further, a cleaning device is not restricted to clean a photosensitive drum but may be used for cleaning the intermediate transfer roller 28 as in the first embodiment. That is, as in a first modified example shown in FIG. 4, the intermediate transfer roller 28 may be cleaned using a cleaning device 48 comprising a web sheet 46 that is wound round around on the surface of a brush roller 47 and runs in the arrow direction w to a winding roll 44 from a sending roll 43. Thus, residual toner on the intermediate transfer roller 28 can be surely removed.

Page 15, paragraph starting at line 18 ending at line 24

Further, for example, in the first embodiment, the brush roller 31 may not get through the textile of the web sheet 32 but may form only a rough portion 52 on the surface of the web sheet 51 that is put over the surface of the brush roller 50, for example, as in a second deformed example shown in FIG. 5. Even in this case, the scraping function by an elastic force of the brush roller 50 is not impaired and acts via the web sheet 51.

Page 15, paragraph starting at line 25 ending on Page 16 at line 4

In addition, the process speed[[, etc.]] of the image forming apparatus are also not limited but, for example, in the first embodiment the peripheral velocity of the photosensitive drum is desirable at about 50-300 mm/sec. In this case, it is desirable to set the moving velocity of the web sheet of the cleaning device in a range of 0.05-5 mm/sec.

Page 16, paragraph starting at line 5 ending at line 17

Further, the structure, drive, [[etc.]] of the cleaning device are also not limited and the driving of the first cleaning member is not restricted provided that the scraping function can be maintained and, for example, the brush roller in the first embodiment can be stationary or can be rotated in the direction reverse to the rotary direction of the photosensitive drum. Further, the first cleaning member is not limited to a brush if the scraping function is obtained and may be a drum having elastic projections for scraping formed thereon. Length The length of brush can be 2-5 mm and the thickness can be 100-500 μ m. Further, if the wiping function is maintained and the function of the first cleaning member is not prevented, the second cleaning member can be in thickness 20-1000 μ m or preferably 50-500 μ m and density 0.2-0.8 g/cm³.

Page 16, paragraph starting at line 18, ending at Page 17 at line 6

According to this invention as described above in detail, in order for saving a space, ~~the space, a~~ first cleaning member having ~~the a~~ scraping function and ~~the a~~ second cleaning member having ~~the a~~ wiping function are put over each other and the scraping and wiping functions are forced to act simultaneously on residual toner on ~~the a~~ developer image carrier. So, irrespective of the particle size of toner, a high cleaning characteristic is obtained and residual ~~toner toner~~ can be surely removed. As a result, ~~the a~~ high cleaning characteristic can be realized with a saved space and a small size image forming apparatus is obtained. Further, color mixing of the developer resulting from improper cleaning of residual toner, contamination of developer images by toner offset and defective image quality caused from adherence of toner to the photosensitive drum [[12]] can be prevented, a high quality developer image is obtained and the maintenance requirement can be reduced.